

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

BACH VESPERS | OCULI

Sunday, March 8th 2026

For at least the last eighteen centuries, some formula for prayer at the end of the day has been part of the Christian tradition. We don't know precisely what the earliest Vespers looked like or sounded like, but certain themes have endured, including confession, gratitude, and light. While Vespers never quite became a significant part of Lutheran piety, that it is still kept at all in the Lutheran tradition may be thanks to one church: the Thomaskirche in Leipzig.

For twenty-seven years Johann Sebastian Bach served as the Kantor of the Thomaskirche, where most of his cantatas were composed—and though Bach's cantatas were generally performed at a Sunday morning liturgy, our practice at Bach Vespers imagines what can happen when we juxtapose the ancient tradition of Vespers with the cantatas of the principal musician of the city that helped it endure.

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the largest progressive Lutheran body in the United States. As Lutherans, we go about Christianity in a Lutheran way, emphasizing that we are reconciled with God (justified) not by anything we do, but through and because of God's love, freely given (grace). We love questions more than quick fixes (paradox), and we read the Bible in a way that honors it as the source and norm of faith, but not as a literal handbook. As Lutherans, we also lift up the gifts and capacity for ministry (vocation) that every person unquestionably holds.

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation (and the first in the Metropolitan New York Synod), Holy Trinity welcomes all persons, including all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Holy Trinity is also committed to practicing racial equity, learning anti-racism, and modeling radical hospitality and inclusion across age, class, national origin, physical and mental health and ability, family configuration, and language. With a heart for the city, a passion for justice, and a commitment to the arts, we seek to be a place where all God's people will know they are loved. Welcome. We've been waiting for you. There is a place for you here.

LIVE STREAMING
AT HOLY TRINITY

Please be aware that worship this evening is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

ASSISTING MINISTERS
USHERS
DIGITAL SACRISTAN

Tim Cage and Robert Crumb
Gayle & Douglass Seaton and Lucy Miller
Tom Barritt

VIOLINS
VIOLAS
CELLO
BASS
RECORDERS
SOPRANOS
ALTOS
TENORS
BASSES

Tatiana Daubek, Dongmyung Ahn, Jeremy Rhizor & Jude Ziliak
Annie Garlid, Stephen Goist, Alissa Smith & Jessica Troy
Oliver Weston
Dara Bloom
Rachel Begley
Lydia Saylor*, Aani Bourrassa & Kristin Sands
Allison Gish*, Clifton Massey & Luke Paulino
Camilo Delgado Diaz*, Matt Krenz & AJ Rodriguez
Joe Chappel*, Jeff Gavett & Jonathan Harris

**soloist*

GUEST CONDUCTOR
GUEST PREACHER
BACH VESPERS DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST
PASTOR

Christine Brandes
Bishop Katrina Foster
Robby Meese
Austin Philemon
The Reverend Timothy Weisman

Tonight's cantata is generously supported by members and friends of Holy Trinity, in memory of Bonnie Eggers, Suzanne Hoglund, and Marie Mutz, with esteem, affection, and appreciation.

V E S P E R S

prelude	Praeludium in e minor, BuxWV 143	Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
motet	Totentanz: I. Erster spruch	Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

Leave all that you have,
that you may take all!
Spurn the world,
that you may receive it a thousandfold!
In heaven it is day, in the abyss it is
night. Here it is twilight:
Blessed is he who understands it well!

*Laß alles, was du hast,
auf daß du alles nimmst!
Verschmäh die Welt,
daß du sie tausendfach bekommst!
Im Himmel ist der Tag, im Abgrund ist die
Nacht. Hier ist die Dämmerung:
Wohl dem, der's recht betracht!*

When invited by the presider, the assembly stands and faces the rear doors.

blessing of
 the incense

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Let our prayers rise before you as incense, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host we may sing your praises, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may light your candle from one of the aisle candles or from your neighbor. When holding a lit candle, please ensure that it remains completely upright at all times.

entrance hymn

“A lamb goes uncomplaining forth”

AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.
2 This lamb is Christ, our great - est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.



He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.
“My Fa - ther’s will is my com - mand; I’ll do as I am bid - den.”
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.



He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -
“Go down, my child,” the Fa - ther said, “and free my chil - dren
Oh, won - drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com-plaint; his spot-less life he of-fers. He bears the shame,
 from their dread of death and con-dem-na-tion. The pain-ful stripes
 can-not right the Son was sent from heav-en. What love, O Love,
 ter-ni-ty be-fore the throne of heav-en, where we shall stand

the stripes, the wrath; his an-guish, mock-er-y,
 are hard to bear, but by your death they all
 who came to save by lov-ing e-ven to
 close by your side, your church, the well-ap-point-

and death for us he glad-ly suf-fers.
 can share the joy of your sal-va-tion."
 the grave un-til the stone was riv-en.
 ed bride, when all the faith-ful gath-er.

The assembly sits. Please ensure that your candle remains completely upright at all times.

Let the gates of righteousness
stand wide open for me,
that I may enter in,
ready to give thanks to God,
This is the Lord's gate,
through which the generation of the
upright and righteous enters,
and hears God's word.

*Lasst mir weit offen stehen
Die Tor der Gerechtigkeit,
Dass ich hinein mög gehen,
Zu danken Gott bereit,
Das ist des Herren Pfort,
Da eingeht das Geschlechte
Der Frommen und Gerechten,
Und hören Gottes Wort.*

The builders rejected
the stone out of blasphemy,
as if they were not allowed,
but it is yet exquisitely good,
made to be the cornerstone,
That which was done by the Lord
must stand as a wonder
before our eyes.

*Die Bauleut han verworfen
Den Stein aus Frevelmut,
Als ob sie nicht dörften,
Der doch ist köstlich gut
Zum Eckstein zugericht,
Vom Herren ist's geschehen,
Muss als ein Wunder stehen
Für unserm Angesicht.*

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of our Lord,
blessed are you, the faithful
who gladly serve him.
Christ the Lord is God,
his word gladdens us,
therefore decorate the feast with maypoles
beautifully everywhere.

*Gelobt sei, der da kommet
Im Namen unsers Herrn,
Gesegnet seid, ihr Frommen,
Die ihr ihm dienet gern.
Christus der Herr ist Gott,
Sein Wort tut uns erfreuen,
Drum schmückt das Fest mit Maien
Gar schön an allem Ort.*

From my heart I give thanks
to you, o my faithful God,
my God, I will praise you every day
forevermore,
give thanks to the Lord all together,
for he is very gracious,
his goodness endures forever,
it brings us into the kingdom of heaven.

*Von Herzen ich Dank sage
Dir, o mein treuer Gott,
Mein Gott, ich will all Tage
Dich preisen immerfort,
Dem Herrn dankt allzugleich,
Denn er ist freundlich sehre,
Sein Güt ewiglich währet,
Bringt uns ins Himmelreich.*

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* God of all creation, open our hearts that King of Glory may enter in. Renew us and lead us so that we may stand in your presence and receive your blessing, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANTATA **Himmelskönig, sei willkommen**

BWV 182

sonata

coro

Welcome, king of heaven,
let us, too, be your Zion.
Come in;
you have captured our hearts.

*Himmelskönig, sei willkommen,
Lass auch uns dein Zion sein!
Komm herein,
Du hast uns das Herz genommen*

recitativo
basso

Look, I come;
in the book it is written of me:
your will, my God, I do gladly.

*Siehe, ich komme,
im Buch ist von mir geschrieben: deinen
Willen, mein Gott, tu ich gerne.*

aria basso

Strong love,
that is what took you, great son of God,
from the throne
of your glory.
Strong love,
that you set yourself as a savior of the world,
as a sacrifice,
that you committed yourself with blood.

*Starkes Lieben,
Das dich, großer Gottessohn,
Von dem Thron
Deiner Herrlichkeit getrieben.
Starkes Lieben,
Dass du dich zum Heil der Welt
Als ein Opfer fürgestellt,
Dass du dich mit Blut verschrieben.*

aria alto

Lay yourselves beneath the savior,
you hearts that are of Christ!
Offer a spotless garment
of your faith to him,
body and life and fortune
shall be consecrated to the King.

*Leget euch dem Heiland unter,
Herzen, die ihr christlich seid!
Tragt ein unbeflecktes Kleid
Eures Glaubens ihm entgegen,
Leib und Leben und Vermögen
Sei dem König itzt geweiht.*

aria tenore

Jesus, through your joy and sorrow,
let me also go with you!
The world cries only "crucify,"
so let me not flee
Lord, from the banner of your cross,
crown and palms I will find here.

*Jesu, lass durch Wohl und Weh
Mich auch mit dir ziehen!
Schreit die Welt nur Kreuzige,
So lass mich nicht fliehen,
Herr, von deinem Kreuzpanier;
Kron und Palmen find ich hier.*

corale

Jesus, your Passion
is pure joy to me,
your wounds, crown, and scorn
my heart's pleasure;
my soul walks on roses
whenever I think on it,
therefore grant us a place
in heaven.

*Jesu, deine Passion
Ist mir lauter Freude,
Deine Wunden, Kron und Hohn
Meines Herzens Weide;
Meine Seel auf Rosen geht,
Wenn ich dran gedenke,
In dem Himmel eine Stätt,
Uns deswegen schenke.*

coro

So let us go
into Salem the Joyful,
accompany the king
in love and sorrow,
he goes before us
and opens the way.

*So lasset uns gehen
in Salem der Freuden,
Begleitet den König
in Lieben und Leiden,
Er gehet voran
Und öffnet die Bahn.*

word of
welcome

Robby Meese

offertory

*In addition to giving towards the ministry of Bach Vespers
as the offering plates are being passed, you can*

- *Scan the QR code to the right;*
- *Venmo @holytrinitynyc;*
- *Send a Zelle to office@holytrinitynyc.org.*
- *Give to Bach Vespers through a Donor-advised Fund
by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.*



The assembly stands when invited by the celebrant.

magnificat

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, SWV 344

Heinrich Schütz (1571-1621)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of
his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me
blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy, according to the
promise he made to our ancestors,

*Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, und mein Geist
freuet sich Gottes, meines Heilandes;
denn er hat die Niedrigkeit
seiner Magd angesehen.
Siehe, von nun an werden mich selig preisen alle
Kindeskind;
denn er hat große Ding an mir getan,
der da mächtig ist und des Name heilig ist.
Er übet Gewalt mit seinem Arm
und zerstreuet, die hoffärtig sind in ihres Herzens
Sinn.
Er stößet die Gewaltigen vom Stuhl
und erhöhet die Niedrigen.
Die Hungerigen füllet er mit Gütern
und lässet die Reichen leer.
Er denket der Barmherzigkeit und hilft seinem
Diener Israel auf,
wie er geredt hat unsern Vätern,*

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be
forever and ever, Amen.

*Abraham und seinem Samen ewiglich.
Ehre sei dem Vater und dem Sohn und auch dem
Heiligen Geiste,
wie es war im Anfang, jetzt und immerdar
und von Ewigkeit zu Ewigkeit, Amen.*

Let us pray.

collect for
the day
(Gelasian)

Almighty and eternal God, you caused your beloved Son to take our nature on himself, that he might give all humanity the example of humility and suffer death on the cross for our sins. Mercifully grant us a believing knowledge of this so that we may follow the example of his patience, and be partakers of the benefits of his sacred passion and death; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

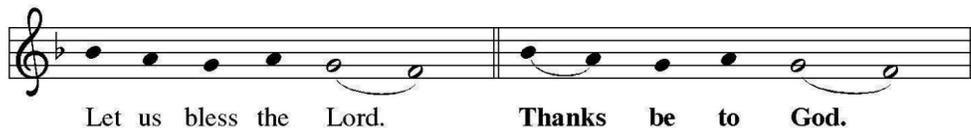
collect for
guidance
(Anna Ovena
Hoyers)

Send down from your throne your divine wisdom to teach me, O God, and let your light break in upon my soul. Open wide the door of my heart, drive out the money-changers and those that sell doves, and take complete possession of my life. Make your presence manifest, and overrule all things to the glory of your Holy Name. **Amen.**

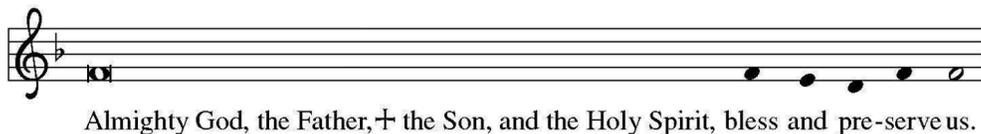
collect for
peace
(Woodrow Wilson)

Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive our shortcomings as a nation, purify our hearts to see and love the truth, give wisdom to our leaders, and steadfastness to our people, and bring us at last to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, of which you are the designer and builder; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

benedicamus



benediction



During the hymn, the assembly turns to face the cross as the procession passes by, orienting ourselves towards Central Park West and the world.

1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
 4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,

let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
 bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
 nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.

Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
 May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,

of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

Upcoming Events

Valves - Music for Horn & Organ

Wednesday, March 11 2026, 7pm

As we begin the “farewell series” for our current organ, Fritts Op. 16, don’t miss an exciting concert on Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm! Austin, along with world-famous horn player, Ben Goldscheider, will give a concert of music for horn and organ. Featuring a premiere of a new Bach arrangement, some rarely heard organ-horn repertoire, and one of the most difficult horn solos ever written, you won’t want to miss this! For more information, visit:

holytrinitynyc.org/valves

Keyboard Concerto in d minor, BWV 1052

Sunday, March 22 2026, 5pm

Bach Vespers presents Bach's jaunty Keyboard Concerto no. 1 in d minor with Holy Trinity Music Director Austin Philemon joining as featured soloist on our Paul Fritts Op. 16 organ.

The Bach Vespers Orchestra presents the Concerto along with Philemon in full force, and pairs the work with selections from Grieg's Holberg Suite. Director Robby Meese returns as conductor for this Lenten service.

COMPLETING THE TONAL VISION

As Holy Trinity prepares to welcome our new organ, Paul Fritts & Co. Op. 54 (New York City's "Bach Organ"), we'd like to tell you about an exciting way to get involved in supporting the instrument, which includes the opportunity to dedicate specific parts of the organ in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an occasion. Our new instrument is designed to have 63 stops in total, 8 of which are currently preparations.

What is a preparation?

When an organ is designed, the builder develops a list of stops, that is, different types of pipes that have different tonal qualities. All of the stops come together to create the overall tonal concept of the organ. Every organ in the world has its own unique combination of stops, creating a unique character and sound. Sometimes when an organ is installed, it is too expensive to build the complete list of desired stops. In that case, the organ builder prepares for the last few stops by building a place for them inside the organ, leaving empty space so that the pipes can be made and added later once more funds are raised to complete the instrument. Prepared stops are often commissioned by individuals or groups with a common purpose, to dedicate that part of the organ in memory of someone who has passed, or in celebration of an occasion like an anniversary, retirement, or birthday.

How can I give?

In addition to giving electronically, you can also make a gift to the campaign by sending a Zelle to: office@holytrinitynyc.org or by mailing a gift to: 3 W 65th St New York, NY 10023. If you'd like to give through a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can locate Holy Trinity by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.

Many donors choose to give stock, which can provide tax advantages while supporting this important campaign. For brokerage instructions, write to: campaign@holytrinitynyc.org

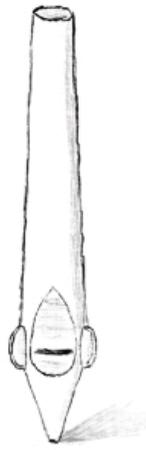
**For a detailed description of the price of each stop,
Ask an usher for a brochure or scan this QR code:**



PAUL FRITTS & Co. OPUS 54: PREPARED STOPS



Hauptwerk
Trompete 4'



Hauptwerk
Cornet V



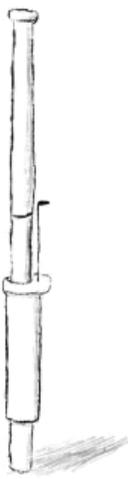
Mittelpositiv
Quintadena 8'



Mittelpositiv
Querflöte 4'



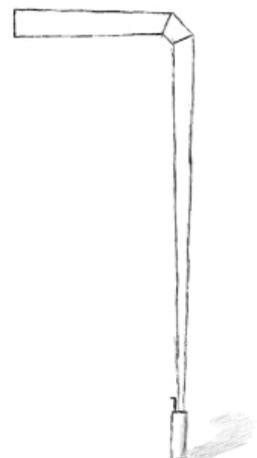
Oberpositiv
**Lieblich
Principal 8'**



Oberpositiv
Krummhorn 8'



Pedal
Quint-Bass 10^{2/3}'



Pedal
**Groß Posaunen-
Bass 32'**

DONORS

SOLI DEO GLORIA (\$20,001 AND ABOVE)

George Shea
The New York State Council on the Arts

PLATINUM (UP TO \$20,000)

William Eggers and his Family
in loving memory of Bonnie Eggers
Friends of Bach in the City of New York

GOLD (UP TO \$12,000)

Rebecca Brakke
Robert Busch & Richard Dematteis,
in memory of their parents
Tim Cage & Eric Nelson,
in memory of Tony Rand
Irene Schultz

SILVER (UP TO \$5,000)

Thomas Barritt,
in honor of Dorothy M. Barritt on her 90th birthday
Susan Hannah,
in memory of Edward Hannah
John Perlich
Dorothy Scholz-Beyer,
in loving memory of Pastor Bob Scholz
Carol Stein

BRONZE (UP TO \$2,500)

James and Suzanne Boccio
Joan Gabel
Anne & Marlin Kinzey
Ricks Family Charitable Fund
Dr. Nancy Maruyama
Dorothea von Mücke,
*in memory of the Reverend Horst von Mücke and
Veronica von Mücke*
Kathy Yates

SPONSOR (UP TO \$1,250)

Anonymous
Caroline Bynum
Darlene Challberg
Marcus Epstein
Kristian & Angela Gevert
Robert Hoglund
Steve Hucko
Jeff Juliar & Scott Merrell
Allen Lieb
Bruce Neswick
Michelle Peranteau
Jay & Kelly Myers
Vera Pavone
Steven Schmidt & Kristine Peterson
Gayle & Douglass Seaton
Edward Todd
Timothy Weisman and Jeremy Friedland

SUPPORTER (UP TO \$500)

Robert Ambaras
Anonymous
Dorothy Barritt
William Bassler
Janis Blimling
Ellen Braaten
David & Peggy Burke
Stephen F. Byrns & Thomas W. Lollar
Rick & Alana Coble
Cricket Cooper
Robert Crumb
Lori & David Damrosch
Donna Doyle
Troy Eggers
Stacey & Eric Flatt
Joe Fryer & Peter Brylinke
Kelly Hall-Tompkins
Deborah Hasin
Carolyn Hinsey
Richard Lefkowitz
Katie Magaziner
Patty McGreevey
Achim Moeller
Jennifer Nelson
Lori Padua
Emmy Potter
Dennis Prah
John & Lynne Richards
Gary & Joyce Roth
David Schlabach

To give to Bach Vespers, please visit
tinyurl.com/givebach
Venmo @holyltrinitynyc

Or mail a check to:
Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity,
3 W. 65th St, New York NY 10023.

To give to Bach Vespers through a Donor-
advised Fund, our EIN is 13-1685538.

SUPPORTER (CONT.)

Michael Schneiders
Charlie Schreiber
Martha Schultz
Lynne Sebastian and George Klemm
Avinoam Sharon
Richard Sturm
Tim Wentzlauff
Robert Workoff
Gerry & Beth Yarnall
Yoshisuke Yamada

FRIENDS (UP TO \$150)

Alexandra Altman
Jason & Kim Anderson
Eleanor Applewhaite
Louise Basbas
Frederic C. Beacham III
John Benson
William Benson
Erickson S. Blakney
Rich Bornstein
Cord Bruegmann
Julie Brie & Elvira Ortiz
Charles J. O'Byrne
Aaron Cantrell
Sherab Chodron
Margaret W. Crane
Lenore Davis
Laura Dolp
Frances Fairey
Andrew Fallaize
Randolph Floyd
Ryan Gottfredson
Elizabeth Grabowski
Carleen Graham
Julie Green
Kelly Haddle
Nancy Hager
Cynthia Hanson

FRIENDS (CONT.)

Matthew Hummel
Brooks Huston
Paul & Liz Johnson
Dahlia Japhet
Kimberly Jung
Evelyn Junge
Sebastian Kaempf
Babette Krolik
A.I. Kuhn Ritz
Bobby Langdon
Linda Lee
Emily Lemer
Phillip Nichols & Marita Wright
David Nierenburg
Jeanne McComsey
Helene Millar
Lucy Miller
Maria Mei
James Naumann
Rachael Park
Rebecca Peterson
Martina Puchta
Bruce Saylor
Tao Radoczy
Philip Reed
Chapman Riedel
Jennifer Rivers
Gonzalo Ruiz & Tatiana Daubek
Karen Ruocco
Erik Ryding
Barbara Scaturro
Emma Scholz
Jessica Schuett
John & Mary Seboldt
MacKenzie Singleton
Richard Eric Walker
Sonja Weissman
Elizabeth Williamson
Davide Zannoni

BACH VESPERS: The 58th Season

Sundays at 5pm

March 22nd

BWV 1052 Keyboard Concerto in d minor

Austin Philemon, organ
Robby Meese, conductor

Friday, April 3rd (7pm)

Heinrich Schütz: St. John Passion

Austin Philemon, conductor

April 5th

BWV 4 “Christ Lag in Todesbanden”

Robby Meese, conductor

A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
3 W. 65th Street at Central Park West, New York, NY 10023
(212) 877-6815 | holytrinitynyc.org

